Amendment

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of determining ~~the~~ a corrected concentration of one or more than one analyte contained in a specimen comprising a blood substitute interferent, said method comprising the steps of:

i) ~~generating~~ providing a calibration algorithm for said blood substitute interferent~~;~~, and

~~ii)~~ ~~deriving~~ one or more than one linear equation defining a relationship between a measured concentration of said one or more than one analyte and a concentration of said blood substitute interferent ~~using one or more than one sample comprising said one or more than one analyte and said blood substitute interferent~~;

~~iii~~ ii) measuring an absorbance or reflectance of radiation of said specimen, wherein ~~the~~ said measuring is performed ~~prior to or~~ in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore ~~performed on~~ within said specimen;

~~iv~~ iii) using said calibration algorithm and said absorbance or reflectance measured in step (~~iii~~ ii) to ~~predict~~ calculate ~~the~~ said concentration of said blood substitute interferent in said specimen;

~~v~~ iv) ~~measuring~~ determining an initial concentration of said one, or more than one analyte in said specimen from said absorbance or said reflectance measured in step (ii), and

~~vi~~ v) using ~~a slope from~~ said one or more than one linear equation from step (~~ii~~ i), said concentration from step (~~iv~~ iii), and said initial concentration from step (~~v~~ iv), to determine ~~a~~ said corrected concentration of said one or more than one analyte.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 8 wherein said one or more than one analyte is chosen from the group consisting of Na, K, Cl, HCO_3, Ca, Mg, creatinine, urea, total protein, gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT), aspartate amino transferase (AST), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), creatine kinase (CK), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and total bilirubin (Tbili).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein reflectance is used in step (~~iii~~ ii).

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the radiation is in the range of 474-910 nm.

Claims 13-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein absorbance is used in step (~~iii~~ ii).

24. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of true hemolysis, pseudo hemolysis caused by a blood substitute interferent, or both, in a specimen, comprising the steps of:

i) measuring an absorbance of radiation of said specimen, wherein ~~the~~ said measuring is performed ~~prior to or~~ in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore ~~perfomed on~~ within said specimen;

ii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step (i) into a first calibration algorithm to determine a value ~~the presence, concentration, or both,~~ of said blood substitute interferent; and

iii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step (i) into a second calibration algorithm to determine a value ~~the presence, concentration, or both~~ of Hb liberated from blood cells;

wherein, ~~a positive concentration~~ if said value of said blood substitute interferent, or said Hb, is above a predetermined threshold, then said value is an indicator of pseudo-hemolysis, or true hemolysis, respectively.

25. (Previously Added) The method of claim 8, wherein said specimen further comprises one or more than one non-blood substitute interferent.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Added) The method of claim 25, wherein said one or more than one non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of haemoglobin (Hb), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 24, wherein said specimen further comprises one, or more than one, non-blood substitute interferent.

30. (Previously Added) The method of claim 29, wherein said one or more than one non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of intralipid (IL), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.